POPULATION TODAY

Vol. 18, No. 4, April 1990

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Long ago, when *Population Today*'s predecessor wrote about the American enthusiasm for place nicknames (see *Intercom* July/August 1983), it was with amazement. From the Strawberry Capital of the World (Watsonville, Calif.) to The Town They Liked So Much They Named It Twice (Walla Walla, Wash.), America's places have almost as many nicknames as proper ones.

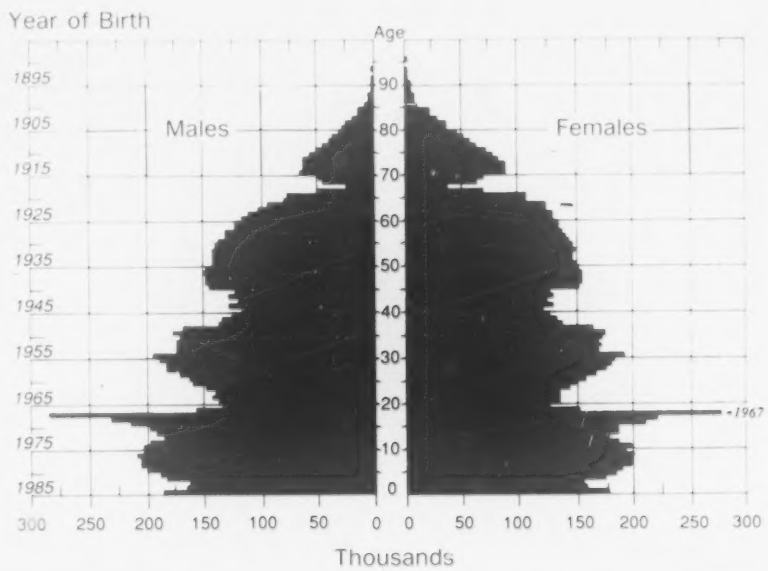
That article was based on information from *Geo-Data*, a Gale Research gazetteer. But we've now discovered what is surely the definitive work on this subject, *Nicknames and Sobriquets of U.S. Cities and States*, by Joseph Nathan Kane and Gerard L. Alexander. Published by Scarecrow Press in 1970 (revised in 1979), *Nicknames* is surely the last word on this mania, with somewhere around 10,000 monikers recorded—everything from Land of Steady Habits (Connecticut) to Action Capital of the Midwest (Des Moines, Iowa) to Metropolis of the Magic Valley (Brownsville, Texas). Over a hundred places call themselves "Queen Cities."

But perhaps the most popular handle may be "Gateway to [somewhere else]," an echo of this huge frontier nation's expanding days, when every place was a Gateway. America's nicknames tell us something not only about localities, but about the whole nature of local pride American style.

—*Art Haupt*

SPEAKING GRAPHICALLY

Romania's Population Structure, July 1, 1985



In 1966, in order to promote population growth, the government of Nicolae Ceausescu abruptly restricted access to abortion and prohibited importation and sale of contraceptives, causing a dramatic 1967 increase in the number of births (see above). Notwithstanding the regime's authoritarian pronatalist measures, births soon declined again.

Pyramid source: Michel Louis Lévy, *Population & Sociétés*, February 1990 (No. 243). L'Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques, 27, rue du Commandeur, 75675 Paris, Cedex 14, France. Reprinted by permission.

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Recycled Paper

The Quarter-Billion Census Is Here

A decade in the making, Census Day is finally here.

The long-cresting wave of preparation has finally reached the 106 million residences from coast to coast—here, there, and everywhere—principally by mail. (The census forms were to arrive March 23, with a reminder postcard arriving March 30.) By now most *Population Today* readers have very likely already received their blue-and-white census form (and doubtless completed and mailed it), all without seeing a single census taker.

At some 11 percent of households that don't appear on mailing lists (in certain rural and seasonal-housing areas of the South, Appalachia, and the Midwest), enumerators have personally dropped off census questionnaires to be mailed back. And in very rural parts of the country where mailing addresses are hard to determine, the Postal Service has left unaddressed questionnaires at all known housing units, to be picked up by census enumerators, who will also record the new address.

At the 484 district offices, returned forms are being logged in by the millions. From now until June, the census work force will be at its peak of 300,000, checking the forms and starting follow-up on incomplete or unreturned forms, which begins with phone calls and can encompass up to three in-person visits. The aim is to complete all field work by October 1990.

Everyone in the resident population will be counted, except for diplomats residing in embassies and foreign tourists. For the second time, armed forces and government civilian employees overseas and their dependents will be included in the count for purposes of congressional apportionment. (In 1970, during the Viet Nam War, armed forces and government employees overseas were counted for apportionment. The Census Bureau also encouraged voluntary self-tallying of citizens living abroad, but did not try to assign these overseas citizens to their home states.)

Enumerators will conduct follow-ups.

This government-related population, estimated at 1.2 million to 1.6 million, will not receive census forms. Rather, administrative records will be used to obtain this head count, and the recipients tallied as part of the state of residence they have declared.

By December 31, 1990, the Census Bureau must deliver its state-by-state head counts to the President to be used for the once-a-decade reapportionment of the House of Representatives. By April 1, 1991, state counts down to the block level must be forwarded to state governors to be used for redistricting.

How Many?

What will that count be? On March 6, 1990, the U.S. resident population passed 250 million, according to Census Bureau estimates. Add in the national daily growth of about 6,800, or 170,000 for the remainder of March, and the April 1 population could be . . . 250,170,000.

Could be—but don't count on that being the figure. Remember that the 1980 Census, the most accurate in U.S. history, provided significant surprises for people who had been relying on interim population estimates in the late 1970s. (See "Take a Number," page 10.)

Other censuses will be taking place at around this time—in Puerto Rico, a commonwealth associated with the United States whose estimated 3.3 million residents are U.S. citizens, and in the U.S. Virgin Islands and the U.S. Pacific Territories (American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands). These censuses will be separate from the U.S. Census, but will be operated by the Census Bureau in cooperation with the local government and conducted primarily door to door.

The Impact

In addition to helping representative government to function, the 1990 Census numbers will figure importantly in an activity of almost equal urgency—funding.

Some $39 billion—35 percent of all federal grant outlays—are allocated on the basis of population data (as of Fiscal Year 1987). Eligibility requirements are one method of allocation (whether a governmental recipient has a certain benchmark population, for example, a city of 50,000 or more); the other is determining grant shares according to population size per person, so the more people, the more funding.

By far the largest population-driven disbursement is the $13.3 billion allocated for federal highway planning and construction. Other significant programs disbursed according to population figures are the Department of Education's grants ($7.1 billion); Department of Health and Human Services funding for Head Start, Social Services Block Grants, and other programs ($5.5 billion); and entitlement grants and other programs from the Department of Housing and Urban Development ($3.0 billion).

More on Adjustment

The final Commerce Department guidelines for possible adjustment of the 1990 Census were released March 12 by Under Secretary Michael R. Darby (see *PT*, February and March 1990).

After a census, the Census Bureau conducts a postenumeration survey to check errors. Such a survey, of 150,000 households, will be held from June to October 1990. After its results

Continued on next page

Population Prospects For a Unified Germany

With the fast-breaking events in Eastern Europe, the reunification of East and West Germany is now more often mentioned in terms of "when" than "if."

What will Europe look like in the population context of a new, combined Germany? The U.S. Census Bureau's Center for International Research (CIR) has made some general estimates (see tables).

West Germany has more deaths than births, but this deficit has been more than balanced by significant net migration, of which less than 10 percent came from East Germany in 1988.

Table 1. Population Ranking of Europe's Top Ten

Rank	Country	Midyear 1990 Population (millions)
1	Combined Germany	78.5
	West Germany (Fed. Rep. of Germany)	62.2
	East Germany (German Dem. Rep.)	16.3
2	Italy	57.7
3	United Kingdom	57.4
4	France	56.4
5	Spain	39.3
6	Poland	37.8
7	Yugoslavia	23.8
8	Romania	23.3
9	Czechoslovakia	15.7
10	Netherlands	14.9

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Center for International Research.

Table 2. Economic Ranking of Europe's Top Ten

Rank	Country	Est. 1988 GNP in 1988 ($US billion)
1	Combined Germany	1,077.2
	West Germany (Fed. Rep. Germany)	870.0
	East Germany (German Dem. Rep.)	207.2
2	France	762.0
3	United Kingdom	755.3
4	Italy	753.8
5	Spain	365.2
6	Poland	276.3
7	Netherlands	191.2
8	Czechoslovakia	158.2
9	Yugoslavia	154.1
10	Romania	126.3

Source: *CIA Handbook of Economic Statistics*, 1989.

Table 3. 1988 Population Components of East and West Germany

	Births	Deaths	Net migration	Increase
West Germany	677,000	688,000	482,000	471,000
East Germany	216,000	213,000	– 40,000 (approx.)	– 37,000 (approx.)
Total	893,000	901,000	442,000 "	434,000 "

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Center for International Research.

Final figures for 1989 are yet to be calculated. But even in this epochal year, less than half of West Germany's net migration is likely to be from East Germany. The East German influx for the year may end up being 350,000, but the total net migration is likely to be 700,000 to 1 million.

The largest component of West German immigration, in fact, is ethnic Germans from countries in Eastern Europe *other* than East Germany. The 1989 total of these Germans from outside Germany is approximatley 380,000, according to a U.S. embassy statistical summary. Of these, 250,000 are from Poland. In addition, an estimated 120,000 foreign asylum seekers and 190,000 other foreign immigrants (from Poland, Turkey, Greece, and other countries) entered West Germany in 1989.

A combined Germany would experience population growth, at least for now. But its fertility is projected to remain below replacement level. If fertility remains below replacement level, CIR projections show a combined Germany would grow slightly to 80.1 million by 2000 and then start to shrink, so that by 2035 it would have a population of 70.4 million that was declining by half a million people per year.

—*A.H.*

Census

Continued from previous page

are analyzed, and after the panelists of the adjustment advisory board have made their recommendations, the Secretary of Commerce has until July 15, 1991 to decide ultimately to adjust or not to adjust.

The guidelines themselves are now fewer (eight, down from 12), and seemingly more conciliatory, but their thrust remains largely the same. For census numbers to be adjusted, the guidelines contend, there must be evidence that adjustment (and the particular method) are more accurate than the raw count would be.

Further, adjustment must be accomplished by applying the adjustment factors uniformly from the smallest census unit, i.e., the census block, on up. "Put simply, in an adjusted population count each individual enumerated will receive a relative weight according to his or her race, age, sex, ethnic background, tenure, and place of residence. The aggregate counts will then be built up from the weighted individuals to census block, local area, state, and national counts." Additional technical guidelines governing adjustment will be forthcoming.

The guidelines also warn "that the Department [of Commerce] and the [Census Bureau] have consistently stated that [July 15, 1991] is the earliest possible date by which there is a 50-percent chance that an analysis could be completed on which a decision to adjust could be based." If the statistical work is not complete by that date, then no adjustment will be made. Thus, even if all other obstacles to adjustment were surmounted, the time window for adjustment might close too soon for adjustment to be implemented.

In any case, the final Commerce position is, as stated by Under Secretary Darby: "Adjustment will be an issue in 1991 only if we fail to achieve our goal in 1990 of a full, fair, and accurate census."

—*A.H.*

Israel New Home for Soviet Jews

With the lifting of restrictions by the Soviet government, emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel has accelerated. In 1990, 100,000 immigrants are expected, much higher than the 1989 total of 13,000. Some 150,000 Soviet Jews may emigrate to Israel over the next three years, and perhaps half a million ultimately.

Net migration had been falling for years; as recently as 1987, some 13,000 immigrants entered Israel, but they were offset by about 13,000 emigrants.

If large numbers of migrants settle in the territories occupied in the 1973 war, it could alter the population balance there between Arabs and Jews. The Jewish population in these territories is currently about 170,000 (of whom 104,000 are in East Jerusalem, 65,000 in the West Bank, 2,500 in Gaza). Arabs in the territories number 1.6 million. Israel's population, including Jews in the occupied territories, is 4.5 million.

Ten percent of Soviet arrivals have settled in East Jerusalem; 1 percent in the remainder of the territories. In a January 1990 speech, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir asserted that a "big Israel" requires "big immigration," words that were interpreted by Arabs as tantamount to encouraging the placement of new immigrants in the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza. Government financial incentives are normally bestowed on occupied-territory settlers.

Though the practical effect of censorship orders on Israel's freewheeling press may be problematical, in March 1990 military authorities ordered journalists to submit for censorship any news stories dealing with Soviet emigration—a rare case of migration projections being considered too sensitive for public consumption. Arab protests meanwhile have led the Soviet government to hold off the planned introduction of direct emigrant flights from Moscow to Tel Aviv, at least for the time being.

—*A.H.*

SURVEY REPORT

Tunisia

Tunisia, the smallest of the countries that make up the Maghreb of North Africa, is situated between Algeria and Libya with access to the Mediterranean Sea to the north.

Tunisia's population of 7.9 million is estimated to be growing by 2.15 percent per year, a rate at which the population will double in 32 years. Much of this growth is a result of declining mortality rates. Results of the recently published 1988 Demographic and Health Survey in Tunisia (EDST) indicate that the country's infant and child mortality rates in Tunisia are the lowest found in North Africa. Nonetheless, the infant mortality rate is 50.4, more than five times the rate in developed countries.

Total fertility rates (TFR) have also declined moderately, from 5.7 lifetime children per woman in 1978 to 4.3 children in 1988. While some of this decline is attributable to a rise in the average age at marriage and first birth, use of contraception has also had an effect. Fifty percent of married women are using contraception, a one-third increase over 1978. Recognition of contraceptive methods and sources is high; 99 percent of married women have heard of at least one modern method and 96 percent say they know of a source for a modern method. Most commonly used methods include the IUD (used by 17 percent of married women), female sterilization (12 percent), and the pill (9 percent). The most commonly used traditional method is periodic abstinence, used by 6 percent of married women. Fewer than 10 percent of married women use a traditional method.

Despite the increase in contraceptive prevalence and the decline in fertility, women are still having more children than they desire. The EDST found that more than three-quarters of married women would like to limit or space their births. While 57 percent of married women say they want no more children, only 12 percent have been sterilized. In the five years prior to the survey, mothers report that 13 percent of the births were not wanted and another 20 percent were wanted later.

Of those women who discontinued contraception in the five years before the survey, most stopped to become pregnant. However, about 30 percent of women who discontinued use of the IUD, pill, or condom did so because of an unintended pregnancy. Other reasons given include menstrual disturbances and health concerns. According to the survey results, 39 percent of married women may be in need of family planning services, yet only half of these women say they intend to use contraception in the future.

Maternal and child health indicators show that place of residence, mother's education, and age and birth spacing all affect child survival in Tunisia. Mothers of more than half of the children under age 5 in the rural areas received no prenatal care. A similar proportion of uneducated mothers had no prenatal care. It is not surprising that children of these same groups of mothers have more than a 25-percent greater infant mortality rate than urban children and children of educated mothers. Children of mothers age 40-49 or less than age 20 also have greater infant mortality rates. Similarly, children born less than two years after a sibling are three times more likely to die before age 1 than children born two or more years after a sibling.

—*B.S.*

DEMOGRAPHER'S PAGE

Population by the Sea

by Larry Long

Knowing the percentage of Americans who live within 50 miles of a coast may seem like demographic trivia. But many callers to the Census Bureau ask for this very statistic or request "verification" of an anecdotal figure that has somehow gained currency in the media.

An approximate table on coastline population is published in the Census Bureau's *Statistical Abstract of the United States* (Table 34 in the 1989 edition), but that has not stopped many people from firmly believing in the anecdotal figure, which happens to be too high by a very wide margin.

The reasons for this percentage inflation are easy to envisage. An observer can see that many coastal communities are growing rapidly and straining local public services. Media reports of a "bicoastal economy" suggest a centrifugal shift of economic activities and population away from America's "heartland" to locations that may strain fragile marine ecosystems and result in coastal erosion, pollution, and loss of wetlands. And there is concern about the possibility of sea levels rising because of global warming.

The upshot is that many people apparently believe that three-fourths of Americans live within 50 miles of a coastline. Because of its shock value, this ersatz number has come to represent a statistical version of Gresham's law under which bad statistics drive out the right numbers.

The bogus statistic has been cited in newsletters of environmental organizations and may gain further circulation through its appearance in a letter to the editor of the *New York Times* (November 29, 1989, p. A30) about population growth and global warming. The original source of the reappearing statistic may be a *Business Week* cover story about ocean pollution (October 12, 1987, page 90) which stated: "By 1990, 75 percent of the U.S. population will live within 50 mi. of the shore, compared with 40 percent in 1984, according to the U.S. Census Bureau."

The Answer

In fact, according to procedures used for many years by the Census Bureau, just over 53 percent of Americans lived within 50 miles of a coast in 1988. This figure includes the population living along the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence river. The percentage peaked in 1970 and declined until the mid-1980s, as shown in Table 1.

Why it declined and then increased in the last few years can be seen by looking at specific coastal areas. The shores of the Great Lakes are home to a declining proportion of Americans, as cities like Chicago, Buffalo, Rochester, and Erie lose population. Counties along the Pacific coast contain a growing proportion of Americans, and since the mid-1980s the proportion living along the Atlantic seaboard has increased. The proportion living along the Gulf of Mexico increased for several decades but has remained relatively stable in the last few years as growth slowed or changed to loss in Gulf Coast cities like Houston.

By 1988 about 12.3 percent of Americans lived within 50 miles of the

Table 1. Resident Population of Counties Within 50 Miles of Coastal Shorelines: 1940 to 1988

		Counties in coastal regions					
	Coterminous U.S. (total)	Total	Atlantic	Pacific	Great Lakes	Gulf of Mexico	Balance of coterminous U.S.
Population (millions)							
1940	131.7	60.5	29.9	7.5	18.9	4.2	71.2
1950	150.7	73.5	34.6	11.5	21.8	5.6	77.2
1960	178.5	92.7	41.7	16.8	26.4	7.8	85.7
1970	202.2	108.5	48.2	21.5	29.3	9.5	93.8
1980	225.2	118.4	50.7	25.4	29.8	12.6	106.7
1984	234.6	123.4	52.5	27.3	29.6	14.0	111.2
1985	238.8	125.0	53.1	28.0	29.6	14.3	113.8
1986	239.5	126.5	53.7	28.6	29.7	14.5	113.0
1987	241.8	128.0	54.4	29.3	29.8	14.6	113.8
1988	244.2	129.5	55.0	30.0	29.9	14.7	114.6
Percent distribution							
1940	100.0	45.9	22.7	5.7	14.4	3.2	54.1
1950	100.0	48.8	23.0	7.7	14.5	3.7	41.2
1960	100.0	51.9	23.4	9.4	14.8	4.4	48.0
1970	100.0	53.7	23.8	10.6	14.5	4.7	46.4
1980	100.0	52.6	22.5	11.3	13.2	5.6	47.4
1984	100.0	52.6	22.4	11.6	12.6	6.0	47.4
1985	100.0	52.3	22.2	11.7	12.4	5.9	47.7
1986	100.0	52.8	22.4	12.0	12.4	6.1	47.2
1987	100.0	52.9	22.5	12.1	12.3	6.0	47.1
1988	100.0	53.1	22.5	12.3	12.2	6.0	46.9

Notes. Excludes Alaska and Hawaii. Covers all counties and independent cities which are entirely or substantially within 50 miles of U.S. coastal shorelines. Great Lakes region includes St. Lawrence River.

Source. U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 1980, 1986* and *1988* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office) and unpublished data that will appear in a forthcoming issue of the *Statistical Abstract*.

Larry Long is with the Center for Demographic Studies, U.S. Bureau of the Census

Pacific Ocean; this figure excludes Alaska and Hawaii, but including them would raise the percentage only modestly. The percentage living along the Atlantic seaboard began to decline after 1970 because of slow growth or population decline in older ports like Boston, New York, and Baltimore; by the mid-1980s growth along Florida's Atlantic coast helped to raise the proportion of Americans living along the Atlantic seaboard to 22.5 percent. The population living within 50 miles of the Gulf of Mexico has held steady at about 6 percent of the U.S. population over the last few years.

These figures include many counties that have no coastline but whose populations are substantially within 50 miles of a coast. An example is San Bernardino County, which extends across southern California to the Arizona and Nevada borders; it does not reach the Pacific Ocean, but much of the San Bernardino population is clustered in the county's western tip, which reaches within 50 miles of the ocean. Counting the whole county as coastal includes the city of Needles—nearly 200 miles from an ocean. In general, Table 1 encompasses an expansive notion of how many people live within 50 miles of a coast.

California and Florida

Counties along the California coast are home to a growing proportion of Americans, but they are home to a declining proportion of Californians because growth has been shifting inland. Table 2 presents these statistics.

The proportion of Americans living in coastal counties of California rose from 4.4 percent in 1950 to 7.0 percent in 1988. In the 1950s these counties were, as a group, growing faster than the rest of California, but since then coastal counties have grown more slowly than the noncoastal counties. The proportion of Californians living in coastal counties rose to 65 percent in 1960 but declined to 61 percent by 1988.

Table 2. Shares of Population Living in Coastal Counties of California and Florida: 1950 to 1988

	1950	1960	1970	1980	1988
California					
Total population (in 1,000s)	10,586	15,717	19,971	23,667	28,314
Percent of California's population living in coastal counties	63.3	64.6	64.0	62.2	60.6
Percent of U.S. population living in coastal counties of California	4.4	5.7	6.3	6.5	7.0
Florida					
Total population (in 1,000s)	2,771	4,952	6,791	9,747	12,335
Percent of Florida's population living in coastal counties	67.0	69.9	71.7	71.2	71.2
Percent of U.S. population living in coastal counties of Florida	1.2	1.9	2.4	3.1	3.6

Source: Compiled from Census Reports, 1950 through 1980, and county population estimates for 1988, published in U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P-26, No. 88-A (August 1989).

These figures are based only on counties that have a coastline.

Growth has shifted inland for some highly publicized reasons, particularly the escalating housing prices that have sent many families away from coastal areas in search of affordable housing. One ranking of U.S. metropolitan areas with *least* affordable housing found four of the top five on or near the California coast: San Francisco, Anaheim-Santa Ana, Los Angeles-Long Beach, and Santa Barbara-Santa Maria-Lompoc.[1] In northern California, this has meant that "Sacramento, 80 miles east of San Francisco and with a median house [priced] 50 percent lower, is fast becoming an extension of the San Francisco area."[2] In southern California, inland growth has sometimes pushed suburban homes to erosion-prone hillsides and into desert environments.

In Florida, too, the percent of population living in coastal counties may have peaked. Most of Florida's counties have a coastline, and the percent of Floridians living in them rose to 71.7 percent in 1970 but declined to 71.2 percent in 1980 and has been holding at that level since then (see Table 2). Florida's growth may be shifting inland for some of the same housing-related reasons as in California and because of the growth of noncoastal cities like Orlando and development around Disney World.

The population in coastal counties of Florida continues to grow faster than the national average, and by 1988, 3.6 percent of Americans lived in them according to the Census Bureau's procedures for determining usual residence. Surely the percentage of Americans to be found along Florida's coast is higher in the winter months when "snowbirds" and vacationers are present.

In the 1970s and 1980s all counties in Florida grew in population, whereas in the 1950s and 1960s several counties lost population. The spread of growth has more evenly distributed Florida's population among its counties. California's population has also become more evenly distributed among its counties.[3]

Population and Leisure

Growth that moves inland may still concentrate population near coastal areas. If 100 miles from a coast were chosen instead of 50 miles, America's population would probably more dramatically appear to be concentrating in coastal locations. Whatever distance is chosen, the environmental effects may depend as much on

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Demographer's Page

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where people range as where they officially reside.

Increased leisure can provide more people with access to ecologically fragile areas, whether ski resorts, wilderness preserves, or coastal areas. Longer vacations are an obvious manifestation of greater leisure, but making holidays fall on Mondays or Fridays gives people longer weekends and expands the range of accessible locations. So do alternate work schedules that let people work 40 hours in four days instead of five. Earlier retirement and programs that support retirees' income mean more years of active life and more choices of where to live and vacation. Affluence in the form of condos and second homes in scenic locations has the same effect.

In the United States the population by the sea has been augmented by successive waves of immigrants disembarking at ports, but in recent decades changes in the location of economic activities and expanded use of air travel have shifted growth to landlocked areas like Atlanta, San Antonio, Dallas, and Phoenix. The proportion of Americans who live within 50 miles of the sea has grown only modestly in recent years, but the proportion who live there part of the time may have increased more dramatically.

Andrea Walter assisted in compiling data for this article, and Diana DeAre, Richard Forstall, and Robert Speaker provided illustrations of uses of data on coastal populations.

References

1. "Peoria, Ill., Is Top U.S. Market for Most Affordable Housing." *Washington Post*, December 2, 1989, p. E2.
2. Robert Reinhold, "Even in California, Finally, Real Estate is Not Hot." *New York Times*, December 10, 1989, p. E4.
3. The evenness with which population is distributed across areas can be measured by using the index of dissimilarity to compare the distribution of population and land area across a state's counties. This index declined for California and Florida in the 1970s and 1980s. See Larry Long and Diana DeAre, "Spatial Units and Trends in Population Concentration and Deconcentration in the United States," forthcoming in *Environment and Planning A*.

Contraceptive Push Urged

No fundamentally new contraceptive methods have been approved in the United States since the advent of the pill and the IUD in the 1960s.

Many auspicious approaches remain as far from reaching the market as ever, and the "perfect" contraceptive that is ideally safe, convenient, and effective has yet to be invented. The outlook for new or improved methods is cloudy; virtually all U.S. pharmaceutical companies have halted contraceptive research and development. Unless more research goes forward, contraceptive options in 2000 could be much the same as today's.

These are some of the conclusions of a major study on contraceptive development in the U.S., announced in February by the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences.

"Currently available methods," says the report, "are not well suited to the religious, social, economic, or health circumstances of many Americans," particularly men, older women, teenagers, and women who are breastfeeding. Partly as a result of this deficiency, the committee estimated, between 1.2 million and 3 million unwanted pregnancies occur in the United States each year.

Many promising methods await further study: injections, implants, transdermal patches, vaginal suppositories and rings, and under-the-tongue tablets, all of which theoretically could be ready during the 1990s. These methods would deliver contraceptive steroids into the bloodstream at a constant and lower rate than present methods such as the pill. Whether they get to market depends less on medical breakthroughs than on logistical and legal ones.

In Europe, meanwhile, a number of contraceptive methods not available in the U.S. are being used. These include contraceptive implants, new oral contraceptives, injectables, and antiprogesterones (RU 486).

Looking farther ahead, a male pill continues at the laboratory stage. "A contraceptive vaccine, for which much of the basic research has been completed, is not being developed at a rate that contraceptive research would allow," the report states.

Much of the study's concern centers over what it considers unnecessary legal obstacles that discourage drug manufacturers. The committee urged that the Food and Drug Administration's approval process be revised, and that product-liability laws be changed to give the nation stable and uniform national product-liability rules.

—*A.H.*

The report, *Developing New Contraceptives: Obstacles and Opportunities*, is available from the National Academy Press, 2101 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20418; phone 202-334-3313, or 1-800-624-6242. Price: $19.95 prepaid.

Cruz Named PRB Scholar

Maria Concepcion J. Cruz has been named PRB's Visiting Scholar for the 1990-1991 academic year.

Dr. Cruz is associate professor and former head of the Environmental Education Division of the Institute of Environmental Science and Management (IESAM) at the University of the Philippines at Los Banos. She has worked extensively on irrigation management issues, water rights, and upland production systems. Her most recent work has concentrated on population and forest resource development.

While at PRB, Dr. Cruz will examine the linkages between population change and environmental degradation. She will focus on key institutional mechanisms that mediate impact of population pressure on future sustainability of resources.

The Visiting Scholar Program is supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to enable distinguished professionals in the population field to carry out policy-oriented research at PRB's Washington headquarters. The program is designed to provide a unique career-development opportunity for deserving scholars while enhancing PRB's research resources and intellectual exchange.

Preventing U.S. Infant Deaths

An affluent, technological society with extensive medical services, the United States ranks only 20th in the world in infant mortality, writes Christiane B. Hale in PRB's latest *Population Trends and Public Policy* report.

In 1988, the U.S. rate was 9.9 infant deaths per 1,000 live births. In that year there were about 3.9 million live births in the U.S., and 38,700 infants died between birth and their first birthday. If the U.S. rate were equal to Sweden's (whose rate is a low 5.7), more than 17,000 infant lives would be saved annually.

One major determinant, says Hale, is low infant weight at birth. Low birth weight (LBW)—weighing less than 2500 grams or about 5.5 pounds at birth—is the most notable risk indicator of death in the first weeks of life. In the 1980s, seven percent of U.S. babies weighed less than 2500 grams, compared to 4 percent in Ireland and the Netherlands.

Health-care services can reduce the risk of low birth weight. But for many, access to such health services may be severely restricted by financial, geographic, and administrative barriers. Some beneficial health services that are common in other developed nations, such as postnatal home visits, are relatively rare in the U.S.

In many ways, according to Hale, the infant-mortality problem in the U.S. reflects a public ambivalence about the costs and benefits of health services. So the problem remains, with its costs both in human terms and in the expense of massive post hoc medical intervention.

—*A.H.*

Copies of "Infant Mortality: An American Tragedy," by Christiane B. Hale, No. 18 in PRB's *Population Trends and Public Policy*, can be ordered from PRB, Circulation Dept., P.O. Box 96152, Washington, D.C. 20090-6152, with checks payable to PRB; or by calling 1-800-877-9881. Visa and MasterCard accepted. Prices are: $5.00 a single copy, 2-10 copies $4.50 ea., 11-50 copies, $4.00 ea., 51 or more, $3.80 ea. Orders of $50.00 or less must be prepaid and include $1.00 or 3 percent of total order (whichever is greater) for postage and handling.

SOFTWARE

CD-ROM EndUser is a monthly magazine that covers the brave new world of CD-ROM disks for personal computers.

These economical plastic disks are each capable of permanently storing hundreds of millions of data bytes. So topics in the magazine's 56-page February issue include forthcoming 1990 Census products on CD-ROM, data on disk from the 1985 American Housing Survey (AHS) from HUD, and the POPLINE population database funded and distributed by the UN Population Fund (see *PT*, September 1989). Tips to readers are also provided, including advice on producing your very own CD-ROM data disk.

In April the publisher, DDRI, also plans to launch *CD-ROM Shoppers Guide*, a quarterly buyer's guide with listings of available CD-ROM products. In the meantime, besides serving as a guide for its eponymous readers, *CD-ROM EndUser*'s very existence shows just how specialized the U.S. magazine industry can be. (11,229 periodical titles were published in 1988, according to Gale Research.)

Subscriptions to *CD-Rom EndUser* are "free to qualified subscribers." For further information, contact: DDRI Inc., 510 N. Washington St., Suite 401, Falls Church, Va. 22046-3537; phone 703-237-0682.

—*A.H.*

POPULATION UPDATE

Estimated United States Population:

As of December 1, 1989	249,928,000
As of December 1, 1988	247,427,000

The above estimates include armed forces overseas and are from U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P-25, No. 1052.

Estimated World Population:

As of April 1990	5,303,000,000
Annual growth	93,000,000

Extrapolated from the mid-1989 population on PRB's *1989 World Population Data Sheet*.

Latest Provisional Statistics for the U.S.: November 1989

	12 months ending with November					
	Number		Rate			
Item	1989	1988	1989	1988	1987	1986
Live births	3,967,000	3,902,000	16.0	15.9	15.7	15.5
Deaths	2,141,000	2,169,000	8.6	8.8	8.7	8.7
Natural increase	1,826,000	1,733,000	7.4	7.1	7.0	6.8
Marriages	2,394,000	2,389,000	9.7	9.7	10.0	9.9
Divorces	1,161,000	1,174,000	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.8
Infant deaths	38,800	38,700	9.8	10.0	9.9	10.5
Population base (in millions)	...	...	248	245.4	243.1	240.8

Note. Rates are given per 1,000 population, except for infant deaths, which are given per 1,000 live births.

Source. *Monthly Vital Statistics Report* (Vol. 38, No. 11) from the National Center for Health Statistics.

TAKE A NUMBER

And the Number Is . . .: The Census Bureau recently issued a news release pointing out that U.S. resident population was estimated to have passed the quarter-billion mark on March 6, 1990—a somewhat courageous declaration considering that the decennial census is about to take center stage. The Bureau was quick to point out that a more accurate estimate of when that happened could be made after the results of the 1990 Census are known. But just how different might that new estimate be?

A decade ago, in June 1980, in the midst of the 1980 Census process, the Bureau issued its regular estimate of U.S. population for April 1, 1980 (Census Day). *Current Population Reports* (Series P-25, No. 887) gave a figure of 221,672,000 resident population, i.e., excluding armed forces overseas. At the end of 1980, the actual census count was duly reported to President Carter: 226,504,825. A total of 4.8 million "new" Americans had been found!

The 4.8 million (since changed to 4.6 million) figure is referred to by demographers as the "error of closure." Such an adjustment may be all too familiar to many of us when we balance our checkbooks. Every census has such an error. It simply means that the change in a country's population size from census to census cannot be completely accounted for by registered births and deaths and the accepted figure used for net immigration. But previously this error had never been anywhere near so large; the error had only been 300,000 in the 1960s and a paltry 3,000 in the 1950s.

The larger error can likely be attributed to improving census coverage and to illegal immigration not accounted for in the normal estimation process. Any change in the all-important denominator, U.S. population size, could have many consequences. For example, "per capita" or "per 1,000" type rates must be recalculated; the country's "balancing equation" of births minus deaths plus net immigration may require an uncomfortably large fix in order to balance; and there may yet be surprises in the numbers used to reapportion the 435 seats in the House of Representatives as equally as possible. Some states (including Wisconsin and Kentucky), whose proportion of the national population has probably gone down and which consequently are very close to losing a seat, have a vital stake in the results.

Perhaps the increase, if any, will not loom so conspicuously as happened a decade ago; during the 1980s, the Census Bureau has been careful to allow for illegal immigration in its estimates. It has also raised estimated *emigration* levels because the previous, standard assumptions of emigration are believed to be too low. Will such fine-tuning be confirmed by the 1990 head count? We'll know in nine months.

—*C.H.*

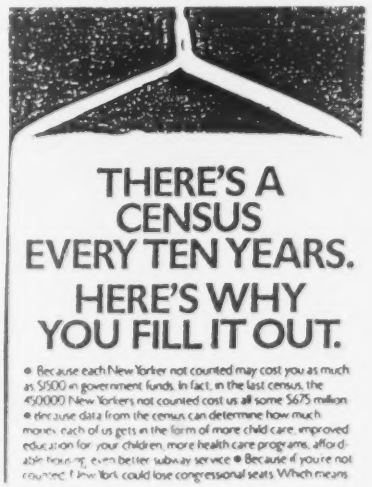
Clarification

The authors of *Atlas of Mexico*, published by Westview Press, 1989 (reviewed in *PT*, January 1990) wish to point out that data from the 1976-1977 World Fertility Survey data were used in the Atlas because they were the most recent reliable statistics then available. The 1987 Demographic and Health Survey was not used because actual publication of its data postdated the publication of the Atlas itself. Release of the 1980 Mexican Census state data was not completed until 1985.

POSITIONS/ PROFESSIONALS

Senior Research Associate and Research Associate, Committee on Population, National Research Council. *Requirements:* for Senior Research Associate, PhD or equivalent, plus four years of research experience, especially with indirect estimation and multivariate techniques. Ability to speak French and experience in Africa desirable. For Research Associate, MA/MS or equivalent, plus four years experience or equivalent, ability to interpret research results and experience in the preparation of scientific reports, budgets, and proposals. *Contact:* Send curriculum vitae and the names of three references to National Research Council, Committee on Population (HA 176-LM), 2101 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20418. EOE.

ADDENDA


THERE'S A CENSUS EVERY TEN YEARS.
HERE'S WHY YOU FILL IT OUT.
• Because each New Yorker not counted may cost you as much as $500 in government funds. In fact, in the last census, the 450000 New Yorkers not counted cost us all some $675 million • Because data from the census can determine how much money each of us gets in the form of more child care, improved education for your children, more health care programs, affordable housing, even better subway service • Because if you're not counted, New York could lose congressional seats. Which means

Even when you're peacefully sitting down to your morning cereal, you can't get away from it. To promote the 1990 Census, the U.S. Census Bureau has been reaching out even via milk cartons (this one a Goya quart of homogenized from New York City).

CURRENT READINGS

PRB welcomes materials on population topics for possible inclusion in Current Readings. Publishers may address review copies to Book Review Editor, POPULATION TODAY, Population Reference Bureau, 777 14th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

DIFFERENTIAL MORTALITY: Methodological Issues and Biosocial Factors, edited by Lado Ruzicka, Guillaume Wunsch, and Penny Kane. International Studies in Demography, International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP). Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1989. 259 pages. $59.00. ISBN 0-19-828651-1.

This book compiles the selected papers presented at the IUSSP-NIRA Joint Seminar on Biological and Social Correlates of Mortality, November 24-27, 1984, Tokyo. The meeting concentrated on the conditions which sustain the high level of mortality found in many less developed countries.

Both the mortality transition in the past, and biological and socioeconomic factors that affected the mortality transition may have important implications for future national health programs and development strategies. However, identifying particular causal relationships properly between observed mortality transition and factors which are often highly correlated with each other is not an easy task.

The introductory paper by Ruzicka presents the methodological and conceptual problems in the study of mortality differential; Duchene and Wunsh explore several possible frameworks for the causal relationship; Gray discusses how one can integrate the demographic studies (i.e., underlying socioeconomic determinants of mortality) with epidemiological studies (i.e., risk factors, disease process and prevention) to provide better indicators for the determinants of morbidity and mortality; Horiuchi addresses the problems of spurious mortality change resulting from structural population changes, and the inconsistency of data quality through time. Variations in the mortality transition among seven Latin American countries and four South and East Asian countries from the 1950s to the 1970s are analyzed by Arriaga using his new method; Utomo and Iskandar's study on Indonesia and Fisek's study on Turkey depict the social, economic, and cultural systems that facilitate or obstruct transition; and Myers examines the issues surrounding current mortality reduction at older ages among developed countries and discusses the social and individual implications of these trends.

—Machiko Yanagishita

IN THE U.S. INTEREST: Resources, Growth and Security in the Developing World, edited by Janet Welsh Brown. A World Resources Institute Book. Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 1990. 228 pages. $19.95. ISBN 08133-1053-9.

This volume, produced by the World Resources Institute, is the final product of a five-year project, "U.S. Stake in Global Resources Issues."

Its basic premise is the increasing interdependence of countries; thus, negative trends in the developing world will affect us negatively if we do not participate in positive solutions. The particular trends highlighted in the volume are environmental degradation and political instability, both of which are exacerbated by rapid population growth.

Four case studies—Mexico, the Philippines, Egypt, and Kenya—form the core of the volume. These four were picked to represent countries whose stability is vital to U.S. interests: "the United States's southern neighbor and third most important trading partner, Southeast Asia's most firmly committed democracy, North Africa's most populous and powerful state and the East African country with perhaps the most promising future."

Each of the case studies gives a brief overview of the political/economic/demographic situation of the country under study then focuses on one particular aspect. The chapter on Mexico, for example, highlights the heavy and unsafe use of pesticides on crops grown for export to the U.S. with negative effects both on the farm workers and the consumers. The case studies are well written and clearly focused, illuminating an important range of resource and population issues.

The volume also offers an array of policy options, particularly proposals for foreign aid that will support sustainable development. These range from restructuring the foreign assistance legislation to separate security, political, and development goals for specific forestry and agricultural programs. These thought-provoking ideas would be helpful in shaping strategies for future U.S. foreign assistance.

—Nancy Yinger

Book Received

RETURN TO AZTLAN: The Social Process of International Migration from Western Mexico, by D. Massey, R. Alarcon, J. Durand, and H. Gonzalez. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1987.

SPOTLIGHT

ECUADOR

Population (1989 est.): 10.5 million
Land area: 109,480 sq. miles
Births per 1,000 pop.: 33
Deaths per 1,000 pop.: 8
Rate of natural increase: 2.6 percent
Total fertility rate: 4.3 children per woman
Infant mortality rate (1989 est.): 63 deaths per 1,000 live births
Life expectancy at birth: 65 years
GNP per capita (1988 est.): $1,080
Capital: Quito

by Alex de Sherbinin

Despite its proximity to the drug-trafficking problems and political instability of neighboring Colombia (to the north) and Peru (to the south), Nevada-sized Ecuador appears an "island" of tranquility in tropical South America.

Geographically, the country is divided into three distinct regions. The signature landscape of Ecuador is the Andean cordillera which runs north-south through the center of the country. The temperate climate and fertile inter-montane valleys of this highland environment are where half of Ecuador's 10 million inhabitants are concentrated, over 1 million of whom reside in the capital Quito.

The coastal lowlands region to the West of the highlands is dry and hot to the south, becoming more humid to the north. Coastal Guayaquil, Ecuador's largest city, is an emblem of the rapid if not chaotic growth that this region has experienced in the past 20 years as migrants have fled the highlands in search of greater economic opportunity. Though still small and underpopulated in comparison, Ecuador's third region, the densely forested Amazon basin or *oriente*, is vying with the coast as the new land of opportunity.

Until the 1960s, Ecuador had a predominantly agriculturally based economy with large-scale plantations on the coast and peasant-based *latifundias* in the sierra. The country remains the world's number-one exporter of bananas, but in recent years economic growth has been buoyed more by petroleum exports and exploitation of its excellent offshore fishing grounds. Much to the chagrin of environmentalists, a trans-Andean pipeline has encouraged further oil exploration in the *oriente*, increasing damage to the region's delicate ecosystem and enticing more would-be migrants out of the highlands.

The national economy is relatively stable, if not robust. However, a 2.6 percent population growth rate (down from 3 percent in 1970-1975) and a projected doubling of the work force in the next 30 years (from 3.3 to 7.2 million) will undoubtedly present economic challenges.

Population growth is considered too high by the present government, but the issue has become somewhat politicized. A recent article in a Guayaquil newspaper quoted the minister of planning as saying that given the resource base of the country, continued growth is in fact desirable. The government's position one way or the other has not prevented family planning efforts from proceeding apace. Indeed, the largest dispenser of family planning services, reaching 36 percent of contraceptive users, is the Ministry of Health, followed by independent doctors and clinics (34 percent) and IPPF's affiliate APROFE (6 percent).

The average number of children born to women over 45 is 6, whereas the current total fertility rate (TFR) for women 15 to 45 is 4.3, and the perceived ideal family size for the same group is 3.0. TFRs are higher in rural versus urban areas (5.5 and 3.5 respectively), but there is surprising uniformity between highland and the coast.

Efforts are being made in both regions to increase accessibility to family planning services in rural areas, through sponsorship of young doctors in the countryside, and collaboration with mobile health consultants.

Alex de Sherbinin

Ecuadoran girls are happy.